

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a vinyl chloride-based polymer, wherein a suspension polymerization of either vinyl chloride monomer, or a mixture of vinyl chloride monomer and another copolymerizable monomer, is conducted in a polymerization vessel fitted with a reflux condenser, said process comprising ~~the steps of~~:

(A) adding to a reaction mixture a high-activity, oil-soluble polymerization initiator, with a 10-hour half life temperature of no more than 40°C at a concentration of 0.1 mol/L in benzene, for a specified time within a period from commencement of heat removal using said reflux condenser through to completion of polymerization, and

(B) adding an antioxidant either continuously or intermittently to said reaction mixture at least during a period from commencement of addition of said high-activity, oil-soluble polymerization initiator through to completion of said addition.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein a quantity added of said high-activity, oil-soluble polymerization initiator is within a range from 0.0001 to 0.2 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of said monomer or monomer mixture.

REM
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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~either~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a rate of addition of said high-activity, oil-soluble polymerization initiator is within a range from 0.3 to 5% by mass of an entire quantity of said initiator per minute.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein a quantity added of said antioxidant is within a range from 0.00001 to 0.005 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of said monomer or monomer mixture.